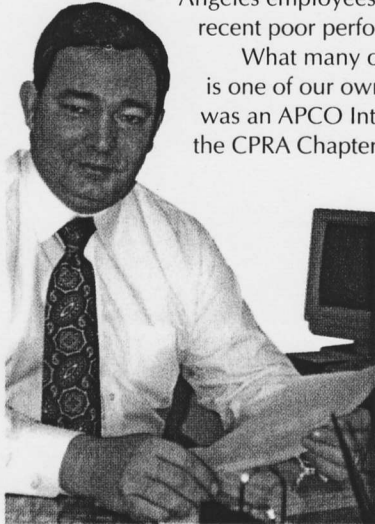


Slain Los Angeles Comm Worker Was APCO International Life Member

WE have some sad news for this month's column, which is being written before we go the 61st APCO International Conference & Exposition in Detroit.

Just a few days before we sat down to write this column, we and no doubt all of you saw the news stories of the terrible, senseless fatal shootings of four City of Los Angeles employees by a disgruntled fellow employee; upset with recent poor performance reviews by his supervisors.



Executive Director Ronnie Rand

What many of you might not know is that one of those slain is one of our own. Anthony J. Gain of Montebello, California, was an APCO International Life Member and a past president of the CPRA Chapter. The first news reports we got back East and probably those you saw in many other parts of the county or read in the papers were not clear as to what department the slain workers were assigned.

Our first news that Gain was an APCO International member came (before we were able to check the membership data base) in a fax message to APCO Bulletin Publisher/Editor Alan Chase from long-time APCO International member Stanly E. Harter of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

APCO Bulletin Assistant Editor Erik Edenholt pieced together the following account of the tragedy:

Officials said a 12-year City of Los Angeles radio repairman entered the city's General Services Department to begin work for the day in the communications area. After an angry discussion with someone about his work evaluation, he left for a moment and returned with a 19-shot, semi-automatic Glock handgun. He searched out his victims (two were shot in one work area, and the two others elsewhere in the

four-story building). Shot dead were: APCO International Life Member Anthony J. Gain, 78, who was the city's most senior employee, and three other supervisors in the Communications Division: Neil Carpenter, 61; Marty Wakefield, 57; and James Walton, 60. Police said Carpenter and Walton had given the evaluation and that Gain was the office supervisor. Two police officers in the building to have a repair facility there work on the keys to their cruiser heard the shots, ran to the area of their origin

Anthony J. Gain, 78, was the president of the CPRA Chapter in 1966 and was chairman of the 1968 Western States Regional Conference.

'He enjoyed being around the people he loved and served them with an even greater fervency than the city he worked for.'

and followed witnesses' directions to track the gunman outside where they cornered him and he surrendered.

Gain was active for many years in APCO International, serving on several committees during the 1950s and '60s. Among his many accomplishments, Gain was a member of the 1968 Palm Springs Program Committee, CPRA president in 1966 and was chairman of the 1968 Western States Regional Conference.

"He was a man of greatness. To those of us he knew as his family," his son, John, said, "he was a husband, brother, father and grandfather and friend. He was unpretentious and unassuming. With him there was no pomp and circumstance. He was a

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APCO Chapter Meetings

SEPTEMBER

12 • Wisconsin - Beaverdam. Contact: Dolly Brennan, (414) 656-7352.

12-17 • Kentucky - Covington. KENA/APCO conference. Contact: Stephen Rickard, (502) 338-7761.

13-15 • Michigan - Higgins Lake. Contact: Rebecca Shatney, (616) 842-3405.

15 • Northern California - Lake Tahoe. Contact: Allen Wong, (707) 253-4681.

19-21 • Oregon - Portland. Joint APCO/NENA conference on the 19th; joint Oregon/Northwest chapters meeting on the 20th and 21st. Contact: Andy Olson, (503) 378-2575.

20 • Washington State - Vancouver. Contact: Alan Jakobitz, (360) 459-4915.

21 • Indiana - To be announced. Contact: Cathy Robinson, (317) 273-0156.

27-28 • North Dakota (tentative dates) - Fall Conference. Contact: Jerry Schempp, (701) 328-2111.

28 • Illinois - Chicago. Contact: Allan Marquardt, (708) 244-8640.

29-Oct. 1 • Mid-Eastern - Ocean City, Maryland. Contact: Sharon Lechowicz, (410) 522-9445.

OCTOBER

3-4 • Georgia - Hiawassee - Fall Conference. Contact: Robert Simpson, (912) 927-5393.

11 • Tennessee - Knoxville. Contact: Gary Morris, 615-675-3434.

12-13 • Pennsylvania - Wilkes-Barre. Contact: Bob Caffro, (610) 873-8620.

13 • Northern California - Santa Rosa. Harvest Festival. Contact: Joe Perez, (707) 527-1980.

18 • Washington State - Bremerton. Contact: Mel Boston, (206) 478-5330.

22-26 • Illinois - St. Charles, APCO/NENA/ICC 9-1-1 Conference. Contact: Alan Marquardt, (708) 244-8640.

26 • Michigan - Frankenmuth. Contact: Linda Christy, (810) 644-3405.

27 • Minnesota - To be announced. Contact: Julie Heimkes, (612) 924-2618.

NOVEMBER

13-15 • Atlantic - Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Annual Fall Conference, Sturbridge Host Hotel, (800) 582-3232. For exhibits, Exhibits Chairman Tom MiCale, (508) 347-2525. Conference Chairman Blair Sutherland, (508) 270-3911.

14 • Wisconsin - Beaverdam - Contact: Dolly Brennan, (414) 656-7352.

15 • Washington State - Grays Harbor. Contact: Mildred Tirapelle, (360) 0450.

16 • Northern California - Hanford. Contact: Sheila LaPonte-Kirkorian, (209) 488-3174.

DECEMBER

6 • Indiana - Indianapolis. Contact: Cathy Robinson, (317) 273-0156.

7-8 • Oregon - Portland. Contact: Lynn Reeves, (503) 687-5168.

8 • Northern California - Pleasanton. Annual Tabletop. Contact: Robert Rose, (510) 462-3265.

14 • Pennsylvania - Paradise. Contact: Bob Caffro, (610) 873-8620.

20 • Washington State - Yakima. Contact: Sandy Saffell, (509) 575-2320.

Silent Key

Anthony J. Gain, CPRA Chapter

From Page 6

very gentle, kind and generous man. He enjoyed being around the people he loved and served them with an even greater fervency than the city he worked for."

Gain held a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from California State University and a law degree from Southwestern University School of Law. He began tinkering with radios in the 10th grade when he had to stay home from school because of an illness. His interest in radio continued to grow as did the need for space for his equipment. His mother gave him part of the kitchen where he spent hours learning how radios worked. While still a teen-ager, Gain took an Amateur radio operator test and passed with ease.

After high school, he went to work for the City of Los Angeles, starting as a technician. During World War II, he worked for the Los Angeles Police Department operating and maintaining broadcasting stations in the Monte Vista Hills. After the war, Gain remained with the department, servicing and installing radios in police cruisers. He worked his way through the ranks to become senior radio technician in 1949, was promoted to police communications engineer in 1955, chief of the Electronics Division in 1963 and received a promotion to his last position, senior communications engineer, in 1971. He worked for the city for 53 years.

All four of the men were communications supervisors. A retired city employee who knew Gain said the slain man was largely responsible in the 1960s for the Fire Department's implementation of a modern communications system. Friends and neighbors of the other slain men also called them dedicated, hard-working city employees and asked why would anyone want to harm them? The personnel director for the General Services Department said all four were "very good" supervisors and he could not understand any reason for such a terrible thing. "They were four of the greatest persons."

Other officials of the department said the gunman had a problem with his temper while others said he was easy-going and a nice guy.

According to a union official, the employee was facing what the city calls a Skelly hearing where action can be taken to terminate an employee. After his arrest, the gunman was taken to the police department's Parker Center headquarters and underwent questioning for a few hours; he was then booked on a charge of suspicion of murder.

The city building has a guard station at the front entrance. However, employees wear ID badges and come and go without being stopped to be searched for weapons. Various supply and repair offices are located in the building, as well as the city archives. Its roof is used as the landing area for the police department's helicopters. The facility is near the Santa Ana Freeway and Union Station.

Gain and his wife lived in a two-story house in Montebello. He loved his work and could have retired years ago. City officials said Gain's salary, \$79,000 a year, was the same amount he would have received as a pension. ▲

Hear and There

Hello, Is This the Answering Service?

Maybe they'll never understand what 9-1-1 PSAPs do, but wouldn't it be nice if they tried?! Or maybe this is just a case of "semantics," one word meaning something to one and something a bit different to us. A writer of a letter to the editor of a Mississippi newspaper expressed appreciation for the courtesy, prompt service and proper action in the response to a burning washing machine/dryer unit. The letter writer praised the firefighters "and the 9-1-1 answering service." Enough said.

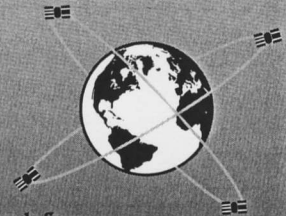
'9-1-1 Courtesy of Chase Chevy/Geo, What Is Your Emergency?'

Will we some day answer 9-1-1 by saying: "9-1-1, sponsored by ABC Rentals and Glen's Auto Body, you dent 'em, we fix 'em, what is your emergency? Well ... in Oxnard, California, the Police Department - at the City Council's direction - is accepting advertising for their cruiser doors, trunks, whatever. Ranging in size from a bumper sticker "and up," the ads are expected to garner 15 Gs, helping to pay for maintenance or vehicle fuel.

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